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element struggling with the incubus of disease." He does not differ then to a great extent from Dr. Paoli, whose apt phrase, "genius with a neurosis" is better suited to the facts of the case.

RIGGS, *Extreme loss of muscle sense in a phthisical patient*, Journal of Nerv. and Ment. Dis. 1891 XVI. 437.

Clinical case, 10 year old girl, phthisical, sensation everywhere perfect, reflexes normal, muscular co-ordination of upper extremities normal, but co-ordination of the lower extremities was noticeably wanting, especially in the muscles of the feet. Treatment by electricity and tonics, recovery from the astasia, but death from phthisis.

Another patient with the usual symptoms accompanying phthisis had lost the power to use the right forearm and hand; death from phthisis. The connection between phthisis and multiple neuritis seems well established.

A. H. PEIRCE.

Harvard.

NOBLE, *Report of a case of anæsthesia of the right side, etc.* Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis. 1891 XVI. 238.

Patient, twenty-nine years old, had suffered from rheumatism, which had left him with a somewhat involved heart trouble. Upon an occasion of unusually violent exertion he was attacked with anæsthesia of the right side. This was soon succeeded by hyperæsthesia of the same side with paresis of the left side. The symptoms manifested were probably due to reflex action from preputial irritation.

A. H. PIERCE.

Harvard.

G. S. WEIR MITCHEL, *Doctor and patient*, p. 177.

The doctor should not dig up his patient's symptoms. Before and after illness is the time to cultivate those inner morals which pain and weakness usually kill. Women are prone to confess too much to the physician, and illness breeds a passion for confessions and even for distortion. Women warp morally if long nervously ill. Physicians of all centuries have probably agreed most on rest, diet and exercise. The best do what is right, but often give foolish reasons for it. All always look beyond drugs. Instruments to measure temperature, pulse, etc., have improved the doctor's hand, eye and judgment. The doctor must not read the riot act to feelings nor poultice them too much, must not be too sympathetic and must be the grave of all secrets. Few things are so delightful as convalescence. Numberless tissues and molecules are being restored, more rapidly than in the growth of childhood. The physician who has not been ill is imperfectly educated. Pain is usually the prayer of the nerves for healthy blood. People learn it in very different ways. Sickly children are usually spoiled by indulgence. The worse the weather the better the exercise out of doors. Girls should be trained just like boys till adolescence; some even learn to box. Camp life for women with swimming, shooting, climbing, fishing, etc., are recommended.

The sudden insanity of Guy de Maupassant may well raise the question of the legitimacy of the aims of a school of art that seeks to reproduce sensation as its highest aim. If a man of great sensitiveness cultivate it with drugs and excesses, or would go about without his skin, or look straight into the sun, he is not a Promethean martyr to art, but simply lacks physiological common sense. The persistent dwelling, too, on things not of highest significance must also tend to upset the mind. Heine, Baudelaire, Byron, Musset, Jules de Goncourt and the

long list of gifted men who would not accept the ordinary limitation of mind in body have something clearly wrong about them. Theirs is a wrong theory of art and of life.

Du Maurier's Peter Ibbetson is an autobiography of a man who during adolescence grew morbidly sensitive and bashful, though a man of handsome and imposing presence. He meets a beautiful dutchess, who later turns out to be an old playmate, dreams a striking dream about her, and finds she had dreamed at the same time the same dream of him. Hearing that the man he thought his uncle is his father he kills him and is imprisoned for life. For 25 years his dreams are filled with life with this beautiful lady. They were married, visited many scenes and lands. Everything, their dress, home, conversation were as natural as if real. At length he dreams she died (just as she did in reality do) and has an attack of suicidal mania, and is transferred to the mad-house. An interview with her spirit greets him and he dies as he finished his story.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in his novel, *Far in the Forest*, describes several types of slight nervous ailment and a curious partnership between a blind and a deaf man, the former being a Swedenborgian dominated by auditory illusions. Paul Preston has the restless vivacity of slightly constructed characters, and like men of his type resembled certain immature feminine natures, and had a like attractiveness. He was easily pleased, and would go any length to escape pain, and a slight but painful malady bred a habit of resorting to opium, a habit most easily made and hardest to break. His moral energy gradually was lost, his property vanished, and even life in the backwoods could not save him. Shortly before death he characteristically lost his love of the drug.

TASTE AND SMELL.

PROFESSOR E. H. S. BAILEY, PH. D., University of Kansas.

LES ODEURS, *Demonstrations pratiques avec Volfactometre et le pèse-vapeur*, par M. Charles Henry, Paris, 1892.

In this valuable contribution to our knowledge of the odors, the properties of gases and vapors are discussed, more especially those points that refer to the tension of vapor and its expansion by heat. There are some inorganic bodies that possess an odor, but most of the perfumes are of organic origin. Various attempts have been made by Berthelot and others to classify odors, but the task is a difficult one. His classification is based upon the chemical composition of the organic bodies. The question naturally arises, is there any relation between chemical composition and odor? From some studies that have been made there seems to be a relation between the odor and the atomic weight. As the odor is in a great measure independent of the chemical composition, it must depend upon the molecular arrangement of the atoms and this seems to involve the discussion of isomeric bodies, and of the constitution of the more complex hydrocarbons.

There are six methods of extracting perfumes; expression, distillation, maceration, enfleurage, a pneumatic process, and finally, a process by solution in volatile liquids. From the various products thus obtained, the extracts, bouquets, pomades, etc., of commerce are obtained. Eugène Rimmel's table of classification of natural odors is of interest, and is the basis of specific description in regard to the sources of numerous perfumes.

It is supposed that perfumes are propagated by the emission of solid, liquid or gaseous particle, hence the laws of diffusion and of evaporation must be studied. But little is known of the diffusion